

Please amend the claims as follows:

CLAIMS

1 1. (Amended) A bucket carrier made from rubber sheet material comprising:
2 a central strip with a left end and a right end;
3 a left front band portion with a left front band upper edge integral with
4 the left end of the central strip, a left front band lower edge, a left front band free end,
5 and a left rear band portion integral with the central strip and the left front band
6 portion;
7 a right front band portion with a right front band upper edge integral with
8 the right end of the central strip, a right front band lower edge, a right front band free
9 end, and a right rear band portion integral with the central strip and the right front
10 band portion;
11 a permanent and non releasable left joint connecting the left front band
12 free end to the left rear band portion to form a left bucket band with a frustoconical
13 left bucket receiving passage; and
14 a permanent and non releasable right joint connecting the right band
15 free end to the right rear portion to form a right bucket band with a frustoconical right
16 bucket receiving passage.

1 2. (Original) A bucket carrier, as set forth in claim 1, including a left upper
2 tongue integral with a left bucket band upper edge, and a right upper tongue integral

3 with a right bucket band upper edge.

1 3. (Original) A bucket carrier, as set forth in claim 1, including a left lower
2 tongue integral with a left bucket band lower edge, and a right lower tongue integral
3 with a right bucket band lower edge.

1 4. (Original) A bucket carrier, as set forth in claim 1, including a first anti-
2 abrasion flap integral with the left bucket band lower edge, and a second anti-
3 abrasion flap integral with the right bucket band lower edge.

1 5. (Amended) A bucket carrier cut from a flat sheet flexible resilient material
2 comprising:
3 a central strip with a left end and a right end;
4 a left side front band portion with a left arcuate upper edge integral with
5 the left end of the central strip, a left arcuate lower edge, a left side front band front
6 band free end, and a left side rear band portion integral with the central strip and the
7 left side front band portion;
8 a right side front band portion with a right arcuate upper edge integral
9 with the right end of the central strip, a right arcuate lower edge, a right side front
10 band free end, and a right side rear band portion integral with the central strip and
11 the right side front band portion;
12 a left side joint connecting the left side free end to the left side rear
13 band portion to form a frustoconical left bucket band ~~with a left band vertical height~~

14 ~~that is at least one third the height of buckets to be carried~~ and forms a left bucket
15 receiving passage with a left passage upper diameter that exceeds a left passage
16 lower diameter; and

17 a right side joint connecting the right side free end to the right side rear
18 band portion to form a frustoconical right bucket band ~~with a right band vertical height~~
19 ~~that is at least one third the height of buckets to be carried~~ and forms a right bucket
20 receiving passage with a right passage upper diameter that exceeds a right passage
21 lower diameter.

1 6. (Original) A bucket carrier, as set forth in claim 5, including a left upper
2 tongue integral with the upper edge of the left bucket band and a right upper tongue
3 integral with the upper edge of the right bucket band.

1 7. (Original) A bucket carrier, as set forth in claim 5, including a left lower
2 tongue integral with the left lower edge of the left bucket band, and a right lower
3 tongue integral with the right lower edge of the right bucket band.

1 8. (Original) A bucket carrier, as set forth in claim 5, wherein the left bucket
2 band includes a left side anti-abrasion flap integral with the left arcuate lower edge,
3 and wherein the right bucket band includes right side anti-abrasion flap integral with
4 the right arcuate lower edge.

1 9. (Amended) A method of making a bucket carrier comprising:

2 cutting a one piece bucket carrier blank from a sheet of rubber material;
3 wrapping a left front band portion and a left rear band portion of the
4 bucket carrier blank around a conical surface;
5 overlapping a left rear band free end and a left front band free end;
6 applying an permanent and non releasable adhesive to the left rear
7 band free end and the left front band free end to form a left band with a left bucket
8 passage;
9 wrapping a right front band portion and a right rear band portion of the
10 bucket carrier blank around a conical surface; and
11 applying an permanent and non releasable adhesive to right rear band
12 free end and a right front band free end to form a right band with a right bucket
13 passage.

1 10. (New) A bucket carrier made from rubber sheet material comprising:
2 a central strip with a left end and a right end;
3 a left front band portion with a left front band upper edge integral with
4 the left end of the central strip, a left front band lower edge, a left front band free end,
5 and a left rear band portion integral with the central strip and the left front band
6 portion;
7 a right front band portion with a right front band upper edge integral with
8 the right end of the central strip, a right front band lower edge, a right front band free
9 end, and a right rear band portion integral with the central strip and the right front

10 band portion;
11 a left joint connecting the left front band free end to the left rear band
12 portion to form a left bucket band with a frustoconical left bucket receiving passage;
13 a right joint connecting the right band free end to the right rear portion
14 to form a right bucket band with a frustoconical right bucket receiving passage;
15 a left upper tongue integral with a left bucket band upper edge; and
16 a right upper tongue integral with a right bucket band upper edge.

1 11. (New) A bucket carrier, as set forth in claim 10, including a left lower
2 tongue integral with a left bucket band lower edge, and a right lower tongue integral
3 with a right bucket band lower edge.

1 12. (New) A bucket carrier, as set forth in claim 10, including a first anti-
2 abrasion flap integral with the left bucket band lower edge, and a second anti-
3 abrasion flap integral with the right bucket band lower edge.